The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and function other intervention of boards in the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
1 MILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1657 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1943 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 33, NO. 2

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

President Roosevelt supplied the big news of the year to date with his message to Congress on the state of the nation and his annual budget message.

These notable documents are extremely long and those who read as they run may miss items of vital significance. This is especially true of those portions of these messages especially affecting labor.

Of outstanding interest, it seems to us, is the fact that the President's post-war objectives dovetail exactly with those announced by the American Federation of Labor.

He says that America will seek to free humanity from fear—fear of aggression and fear of want.

The first of these objectives, as labor has pointed out, can be obtained only by complete victory over the Axis Powers, to be followed by peace terms which will outlaw war as a method of settling international disputes and by thorough disarmament of those nations now arrayed against us which are perennially afflicted with war fever—to wit, Germany, Italy and Japan.

The second objective can be attained only by a comprehensive social security program which will safeguard men and women "from the cradle to the grave" against the hazards of poverty, illness and hunger. That is labor's aim as well as the President's.

A Word To The Wise

There were so many enlightening and inspirational highlights in the President's message that only limitations of space withhold us from publishing them in full. The best we can do is to cull a few choice paragraphs which we submit for your earnest consideration. In his message on the state of the nation, the President said:

"Yes—the Nazis and the Fascists have asked for it—and they are going to get it."

The sooner the better, say we.

"Our forward progress in this war has depended upon our progress on the production front."

You, and the hard work of America's soldiers of production on the home front has made it possible for our fighting forces and those of our Allies to turn the tide of the war.

"The arsenal of democracy is making good."

And that, of course, is because labor made good.

"1943 will not be an easy year for us on the home front. We shall feel in many ways in our daily lives the sharp pinch of total war."

Well, labor showed in 1942 that it could take it and dish it out too. We won't squawk when the going gets tougher.

"We take off our hats to all the loyal, anonymous, untiring men and women who have worked in private employment and in Government, and who have endured rationing and other stringencies with good humor and good will."

Our hat is off.

A Greater Future

"In this war of survival we must keep before our minds not only the evil things we fight against, but the good things we are fighting for. We fight to retain a great past—and we fight to gain a greater future."

That's telling the old mossbacks!

"Let us remember that economic safety for America of the future is threatened unless a greater degree of economic safety comes to the rest of the world."

In other words, good-bye isolationism!

"I do not prophesy when this war will end. But I do believe that this year of 1943 will see the United Nations a very substantial advance along the roads that lead to Berlin and Rome and Tokio."

"I tell you it is within the realm of possibility that this Seventy-eighth Congress may have the historic privilege of helping greatly to save the world from future fear.

"Therefore, let us—all of us—have confidence, let us redouble our efforts.

"A tremendous, costly, long-enduring task in peace as well as in war is still ahead of us."

"But, as we face that continuing task, we may know that the state of this Nation is good—the heart of this Nation is sound—the spirit of this Nation is strong—the faith of this Nation is eternal."

To that, all we can say is—Amen!

THE CUP THAT JINGLES

By JACOB A. GOLDBERG, Ph.D.
Secretary of the Social Hygiene Committee
New York Tuberculosis and Health Association;
Public Health Consultant, American Social Hygiene Association

ARTICLE III

In cities throughout the land the sympathy of the public is always drawn towards the blind man walking along the street, holding on to a cane and shaking his cup, asking for alms. Sometimes such men are blind from birth; perhaps their fathers, who had gonorrhea, passed it on to the mothers who, in turn passed it on to the newly born babes. Without adequate protection at birth, gonorrhea may affect the eyes, causing blindness; children with eyes wide open but stone blind, are infested in their early 20's or even in their late teens. We sometimes say "boys will be boys," meaning thereby that we accept the fact that boys will sow their wild oats; but perhaps who sow such oats often reap disease.

The blind we see shaking cups that jingle are often blind because the syphilis germ attacked the optic nerve. When the mother is infected by the syphilis germ, blindness often follows. Perhaps those carrying cups that jingle are more to be pitied than blamed; or shall we likewise say that the sowers of wild oats who become infected are more to be blamed than pitied. Leaving out all questions of morals involved, men the world over know that if they frequently expose themselves to disease, they will sooner or later contract disease. The proof of a venereal infection is often a heavy one. Let us not forget this fundamental fact.

Let us not be too harsh in our judgments. Many men, and women too, who are blind suffered injuries to their eyes through various accidents, from caustic chemicals, from birds injuries, and possibly because of one of many diseases which may affect the eyes. Thousands of workers annually suffer severe eye injuries because they failed to wear goggles or other protective devices. Most cases of blindness can be prevented, and if industrial in origin usually by the use of proper goggles or shields. The men we can prevent infection by syphilis, and gonorrhea as well, the smaller will be the number of men, and women too, groping in blindness, with cups that jingle.

Union Cigarettes For Overseas Troops

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor urged all AFL members to take advantage of the generous offer of the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. to send Raleigh cigarettes to American troops overseas.

"Under a special arrangement," Mr. Green said, "any union organization can buy ten cases of Raleigh cigarettes, including 500 cartons, for $251 for shipment to our men on the fighting fronts. With each order for ten cases, the company promises to send, at no extra cost to the union account, thus bringing the cost of these highly appreciated gifts down to 45 cents a carton.

"Many AFL unions already have taken advantage of this offer and have sent more than five million cigarettes to our boys overseas. It would be a splendid idea if every one of our organizations did likewise."

In a letter to L. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, Mr. Green complimented him on working out the arrangement with the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. Raleigh cigarettes are union-made and bear the union label.

How To Share Your Car

Washington, D. C.—To make certain that the 76 per cent of American war workers who depend upon private automobiles for transportation declared will continue to be able to reach their jobs, the Office of Civilian Defense has launched a campaign to organize car sharing clubs in every city and town in the nation.

Industrial establishments, labor-management committees, unions, and OCD block leaders enrolled with local defense councils are being called upon to help with the drive to "Share and Spare Your Car."

In the foreword of a folder prepared as a guide to organizing car sharing clubs, OCD Director James M. Landis said:

"We must keep private cars rolling, because throughout the country 75 per cent of the workers to-day provide transportation for themselves and their families by means of the private automobile."

"The best way that a car owner can be sure of getting to work on time and still save his car and rubber is by joining a car sharing group.

"War needs keep private cars rolling, because throughout the country 75 per cent of the workers to-day provide transportation for themselves and their families by means of the private automobile."

Anglo-American Labor Group Meets In Miami With Executive Council

Washington, D. C.—The first meeting of the Anglo-American Labor Committee will be held in Miami, Fla., at the same time the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor conducts its mid-winter session there, beginning Jan. 18.

This was announced by President William Green following receipt of a cablegram from Sir Walter Citrine accepting Mr. Green's invitation to bring the British delegation to this country at that time.

The Anglo-American Labor Committee was created last August for the purpose of uniting the policies and programs of American and British labor in support of the war effort of the United Nations. The first meeting was to have been held in the nation's capital last October but was postponed.

Sir Walter Citrine heads the British delegation, the other members of which are F. Wolstencroft, Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers; A. Conley, National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers; Ifn. N. Harrison, National Union of General and Municipal Workers, and J. Marchbank, National Union of Railway Men.

The AFL committee which will meet with the British representatives includes Messrs. Green and Vice Presidents William L. Hutcheson, George M. Harrison, Matthew Woll and Harvey Brown.

The Executive Council meeting will, in itself, be one of the most important labor gatherings ever held. Many important matters affecting war production, legislation, labor peace and other vital subjects will be considered and acted upon.

The council will review the progress of the war effort in the home front and offer recommendations for improving the production program and enlisting fuller labor participation.

It will deal with immediate and post-war legislative problems that are likely to come to the attention of the new session of Congress.

The proposed truce between the AFL and CIO, providing for arbitration of jurisdictional differences between affiliates of the rival organizations, will come up for ratification. CIO raids on the Kaiser shipyards on the West Coast and other industries organized by the AFL are likely to prove a serious obstacle to such ratification.

Many members of the Executive Council plan to stop en route to Florida to attend the Southern Labor Conference at Atlanta, which will be held on Jan. 16-17. President Green will speak there at a luncheon given by Southern business leaders for the labor representatives and also at a dinner for the delegates.

McNutt Urges Voluntary Methods To Mobilize Nation's Manpower

Washington, D. C.—Voluntary measures of gaining the best utilization of the nation's manpower are working out so well that there is no present need for a national service act, Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission, told reporters at a press conference.

McNutt said neither war production nor agricultural output have been curtailed because of any labor shortage.

There are now 17½ million persons engaged in war industries, and the number of employed persons and persons in the armed forces total 59 million, an increase of 5.5 millions in 12 months.

In the next year, McNutt said, the number employed and in the services will reach 65 millions, a considerable increase over his earlier estimates.

The war industries employment will rise from 6.9 millions a year ago to 20 million in December, 1943, he added. Non-essential industries employment will fall from 29.3 to 21.1 millions in the past 12 months and faces an additional decrease in the next year. "It is perfectly apparent," McNutt said, "that workers must leave non-essential jobs for essential jobs."

Drive Opened To Organize Building Maintenance Workers In New York

New York City.—Building trades union leaders launched a new organizing drive here among maintenance workers in public and private buildings and establishments. They have formed the New York Building and Construction Trades Council's Maintenance Organization to direct the organizing campaign.

Charles Hanson, president of the Carpenters District Council, is chairman, and Joseph A. Ilch, director of the Building Maintenance Craftsmen, is the general secretary-treasurer. The executive committee consists of these seven union leaders: Joseph A. Ilch, Building Maintenance Craftsmen; Charles Hanson, Carpenters District Council; John K. Logan, Electricians L. U. 3; Thomas Burke, Engineers L. U. No. 94; Louis Weinstock, Painters District Council No. 9; Harry Donohue, Steamfitters L. U. No. 638-B, and Joseph Rothenberger, Upholsterers L. U. No. 44.

Headquarters will be maintained in the offices of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, Long Island and Vicinity, Thomas A. Murray, president.

The all-out drive to organize the thousands of unorganized carpenters, electricians, elevator maintenance mechanics, engineers, handymen, painters, plumbers, steamfitters, upholsterers, etc., will start immediately.

The New York Building and Construction Trades Council's Maintenance Organization will be designated by the maintenance workers to represent them for the purposes of collective bargaining, in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, or other conditions of employment.

Manufacturers Plan To Dominate Education Units, Teachers Charge

Chicago, Ill.—The Executive Board of the American Federation of Teachers, meeting here, charged that the National Association of Manufacturers is attempting to capture the agencies of education for the purpose of molding them in the service of its special interests.

The Federation Board also charged that certain teachers' organizations have already been influenced by the power and money lavished lavishly prepared and well-financed campaign to mold the mind of the American people in support of their special interests. By more or less concealed methods they penetrated the various agencies of education and opinion, including the public schools, colleges and universities. They sought to influence the content of textbooks, the courses of study, and the thought of teachers. This conspiracy against the American people, for such it was, was finally and fully exposed by an exhaustive inquiry by the Federal Trade Commission."

"Evidence is accumulating that their discredited patterns of behavior is now being repeated, in whole or in part, by another powerful business group. The National Association of Manufacturers is seeking to capture the agencies of education for the purpose of using them in the service of its special interests. It is preparing materials to be used in the schools—books, pamphlets, bibliographies, and even moving pictures—all to be furnished to the educational authorities without cost. It has even sought, already apparently with very considerable success, to form an alliance with teachers and certain teachers' organizations not altogether familiar with the facts of life. In return, contrary to its well-established tradition, it seemingly has offered to support the public schools."

"The American Federation of Teachers unqualifiedly condemns this second effort within a single generation on the part of organized business to capture the program of the schools and then to impose its peculiar pattern of thought on the young of America."

M. H. HEDGES APPOINTED TO WPB PLANNING GROUP

Washington, D. C.—M. H. Hedges, research director of the International Association of Machinists, AFL, has been seconded appointment on the Planning Committee of the War Production Board, Donald M. Nelson, WPB Chairman, announced.

Mr. Hedges has been made available on a part-time basis by the Electrical Workers to bring labor's outlook to the committee. Mr. Robert R. Nathan is chairman, in its studies of immediate and long range problems by the office of the chairman of the War Production Board.

His appointment was recommended by Labor Production Division Director Wendell Lund after consultation with President Harry Bates of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Hedges has been prominent in labor circles for many years. In addition to heading the Research Department of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, he has four times been a labor consultant to the International Labor Office at Geneva, and is a consultant to the Social Security Board. He serves as a member of the Negotiating Committee of the Trades and Labor Council of the Tennessee Valley Authority. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Planning Association and was one of the founders of that organization.

News Briefs

GREEN HAILS FARMERS' WAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green saluted the nation's farmers in the following statement:

"On January 12th the farmers of this nation will meet in small groups throughout the country in a vigorous mobilization. These are the men and women and children who have set farm production standards on the high plane that is so necessary for the successful operation of this war. Now they are planning to produce even more for the next year, so that our soldiers, our workers and our allies will have the wholesome nourishment to sustain and invigorate them during their difficult tasks.

"As a spokesman for those who are fighting on the mighty factory front, the men and women who achieved the 'miracle' of production in arms, planes and guns, I want to stress how important food is in helping our civilian war workers reach their high goals. The hard-working farmers of this country deserve to hold high the flag of freedom which they have earned, both for what they have done and, more important, for what they shall do to back up the free and courageous men of democracy wherever they are in conflict with the enemy."

PLASTERERS PURCHASE $250,000 WAR BONDS

Washington, D. C.—Secretary-Treasurer Michael J. McDonough of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers International Association, AFL, and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany that the international union has purchased $150,000 of war bonds and is placing an order for an additional $100,000.

KAISER LAUDS WORKERS FOR BREAKING RECORDS

Los Angeles.—Henry J. Kaiser gave full credit to the huge army of AFL workers in his employ for the great shipbuilding exploits of his company.

"This is the moment to place the credit where it is due," Kaiser said. "As regards the ships, always and everywhere, the highest praise belongs to the men who work with their hands.

"The devoted effort of labor and its wholehearted cooperation is the prime force under the entire output. A great army of individuals totaling the equivalent of 200,000 has made an outstanding contribution.

"The workers on the humblest task have a spirit and devotion to which full tribute is due."

SHISHKIN NAMED MEMBER OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT UNIT

Washington, D. C.—Boris Shishkin, economist of the American Federation of Labor, has been designated by President Roosevelt as an alternate member of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

Mr. Shishkin, who serves as consultant to a number of government agencies, was named to serve for William Green, president of the AFL, on occasions when it is not possible for him to attend the meetings of the committee. Mr. Shishkin will replace Frank Fenton, director of organization of the AFL, who has been an alternate member since the launching of the committee.

WORKERS MAY DRIVE CARS TO THEIR UNION MEETINGS

Washington, D. C.—Driving for the purpose of attending union meetings is not considered pleasure driving by the OPA.

Union meetings fall within the category of "meetings directly related to the occupation or profession of the owner or person using the vehicle," and driving to and from such meetings is therefore permissible under Amendment 21 to the Gasoline Rationing Regulations, it was officially announced at the national offices of the OPA.

ALUMINUM UNION PAYS $6,600 FOR WAR BONDS

Washington, D. C.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany received a report from Secretary Thomas R. Jarrell of Aluminum and Tin Foil Workers Union No. 19388, Louisville, Ky., that up to December 1, 1942, the union had bought $6,600 worth of War Bonds. In addition, the union has instructed the treasurer to invest 10 per cent of its income each month in War Bonds.

AFL Leaders Hail Speech by F.D.R.; Will Back His Social Security Plan

President's Encouraging Report on War Production Dooms Anti-Labor Bills

Washington, D. C.—Cheered by President Roosevelt's encouraging message to Congress on the state of the nation, AFL leaders served immediate notice they would support to the fullest extent his newly proposed social security program.

This program, designed to abolish the fear of want, occupies a top spot on the AFL's own list of legislative objectives for 1943.

The President's report on war production also served as an inspiration to the representatives of labor who have worked with might and main to increase the output of war materials and thus speed victory.

Labor leaders were of the opinion that since production results are so gratifying, the Administration will oppose any attempt in Congress to enact anti-labor legislation which might threaten continued progress of the war effort on the industrial front.

The President divided his report to Congress into three parts. First he reviewed the progress of the war to date and found that within the short space of a year this country with the aid of her Allies, has succeeded in turning the tide of battle and putting the Axis Powers on the defensive.

Looking ahead to the future, the President declined to predict when total victory will come, but he declared that this year "will give to the United Nations a very substantial advance along the roads that lead to Berlin and Tokio and Rome."

The President emphasized that "our forward progress in this war has depended upon our progress on the production front."

He then gave the highlights of production achievements, including:

1—Construction of 48,000 military planes.

2—Production of 56,000 combat vehicles, including tanks and self-propelled artillery.

3—670,000 machine guns and 21,000 anti-tank guns.

4—Ten and a quarter billion rounds of small arms ammunition and 181 million rounds of artillery ammunition.

By some, oversight the President omitted mention of ship production, which he corrected the next day. He announced that the nation's shipyards set an all-time world record for merchant ship construction in 1942, turning out 8,090,800 deadweight tons, which exceeded the goal set by the Government a year ago.

Because these production achievements could not have been possible without the full and active cooperation of organized labor and because even greater cooperation will have to be exerted this year to fulfill the doubled production quotas for 1943, Congress is unlikely to enact anti-labor legislation, in the opinion of informed observers. They feel that as long as the production picture remains good, Congress will hesitate about changing the focus.

109 Billions For War

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt submitted to Congress a 109 billion dollar budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 and asked for 16 billion dollars in additional revenue through increased taxes and "savings". The latter term was immediately interpreted in the press as a plea for "forced saving" to replace the voluntary war bond program.

The President said that 96 cents out of every budgeted dollar would be spent for war purposes, with the remaining four cents going for normal operation of Government activities.

He emphasized that heavier taxes must not be placed on low and middle income groups unless taxes on large incomes are made fully effective.

"Of necessity," the President said, "the program must be harsh. We should remember, however, that it is a war for existence, and not taxation, which compels us to devote more than one-half of all our resources to war use."

Green Denounces NLRB Proceeding Against Kaiser West Coast Yards

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor denounced the National Labor Relations Board in letters sent to all members of Congress for filing unfair labor practice charges against Henry J. Kaiser, the nation's model employer.

"The employes of the Kaiser Shipbuilding Company are members of the American Federation of Labor unions," Mr. Green said. "A master agreement, negotiated between the management of the Kaiser Shipbuilding Company and the representative of these unions and representatives of the Government, is in effect and is being rigidly carried out.

"This agreement has served to develop efficiency, cooperation and friendly relations at the Kaiser yards and plants of the Kaiser Shipbuilding Company. Steadily, week by week and month by month, ship production at the Kaiser Shipbuilding plants has increased. A no-strike policy is in effect. Grievances are adjusted through conferences, conciliation and arbitration. There is no reason why the shipbuilding production at the Kaiser Shipbuilding plants. The relationship established between employers and employes in the Kaiser Shipbuilding plants stands out as an example in collective bargaining.

"But the existence of this ideal condition seems to count for nothing with the members of the National Labor Relations Board. They have decided to take action which in my judgment will interfere with production, lower the morale of the employes of the Kaiser Shipbuilding plants, create internal warfare, and substitute bitterness and hatred for the harmony and goodwill which now prevail. It seems inconceivable that a governmental agency would be permitted to take such action.

"Surely, if intervention by the Labor Relations Board during an emergency such as now exists, in the harmonious relations between employers and employes will serve to decrease production of essential war material, interfere in the war effort, or create warfare by compelling unions, inspired, stirred, directed and violence, and prevent the launching of ships for use of the Army and Navy within the time limit fixed, then it is for completion some one in authority within the government ought to prevent such action, at any cost."

Labor Press Mostly Exempted By Newsprint Order, Lund Says

Washington, D. C.—Print paper limitations for newspapers ordered by the War Production Board as of January 1, 1943, will not materially affect employment in the newspaper field as a whole and will not in the main affect the labor press, Wendell Lund, director of the WPB Labor Production Division, announced.

General Limitation Order L-240 restricts the use of print paper in any quarterly period by any newspaper publisher to the amount used for the printing of the net paid circulation of the paper in the comparable quarter of 1941, plus an allowance of 3 per cent of that amount for spoilage.

This limitation will reduce the overall consumption of print paper by 10 per cent from the present levels for the country but will have widely varying effects on individual papers, Lund explained.

Labor papers will generally be exempted from the effect of this order as a result of two exceptions. The first exempts any publisher using 25 tons or less in any calendar quarter. The second is an exemption which applies to all publications of eight pages or less issued by benevolent, fraternal trades unions, professional and similar organizations, to which second class mailing privileges are provided under Section 521 of the Postal Laws and Regulations of 1940, Title 39, USC Section 229.

An added feature of the exemption to publishers using 25 tons or less in a quarter is a deduction permitted for the amount of print paper represented by copies furnished without charge to persons in the armed services of the United States.